

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 19, 20, 35, 36, 40-49, and 53-60. However, the Examiner failed to address claims 21, 39, and 52, which were neither withdrawn nor canceled, and as such, were pending. Accordingly, Applicants assume that claims 21, 39, and 52 are patentable and in condition for allowance. In any event, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims, as pending, are patentable and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 19, 20, 21, 35, 36, 39-49, and 52-60 remain pending. In light of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 19, 35, 36, and 40-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sandhu et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,837,564) in view of the Ikeda et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,219). Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 20, 48, 49, and 53-60 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sandhu reference in view of the Gonzalez et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,150,276). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The present application is a divisional of application serial number 09/570,614, filed on May 12, 2000, and issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,376,284, on April 23, 2002, which is a divisional of application serial number 08/604,571, filed on February 23, 1996. Accordingly, the present application claims priority to the February 18, 1996 filing date. This date precedes the November 17, 1998 issue date of the Sandhu patent and is subsequent to the November 1, 1995 filing date of the Sandhu patent. Thus, the Sandhu reference is only applicable as prior art against the instant application under section 102(e).

Regarding the Sandhu reference, Applicants respectfully assert that this reference should be removed from consideration in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) and M.P.E.P. § 706.02(l), because the Sandhu reference is only applicable as prior art under section 102(e)

and because the Sandhu reference and the present application were, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, Micron Technology, Inc. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove the Sandhu reference from consideration. After the Sandhu reference is removed according to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), the Examiner's rejections based on Sandhu reference are moot.

Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 19, 20, 21, 35, 36, 39-49, and 52-60 are patentable and in condition for allowance.

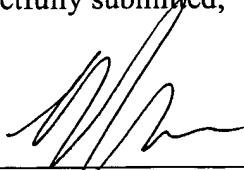
Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

General Authorization for Fee Payments and Extensions of Time

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants hereby provide a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Furthermore, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the appropriate fee for any extension of time, and any additional fees which may be required, to Deposit Account No. 13-3092; Order No. MCRO:0125--4/FLE (94-0281.04).

Respectfully submitted,



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